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STATE FOR EUR/WE (KEVIN OPSTRUP); OES/PCI (STAN SPECHT,
LORI BRUTTEN AND CAMILLE HILL); COMMERCE FOR CS ENERGY TEAM
(CYNTHIA TORRES); WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC

E.O. 12958: N/A
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OPDC, PO
SUBJECT: PORTUGAL: ECONOMY MINISTER TO HEAD WIREC 2008
DELEGATION

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The Ministry of Economy, which is responsible for energy matters, confirmed in a January 17 letter to the Embassy that Minister Manuel Pinho will lead the Portuguese delegation to March 4-6 Washington International Renewable Energy Conference (WIREC). Subsequently, MFA General Director for Economic and Technical Issues Paulo Jorge Nascimento told post on January 23 that the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Environment do not plan to send representatives, although he implied that the MFA may reconsider if other EU member-states do so. (He was particularly interested in the composition of the French delegation.) Nascimento also mentioned that a Portuguese Embassy representative in Washington would participate in WIREC and that the Ministry of Economy would decide how to fill the remaining slots. Nascimento requested a detailed agenda with scheduled speakers and inquired about the format and if there were restrictions on the number of delegates at any of the meetings. The WIREC POC at post is: Tiffany McGriff: mcgrifftl@state.gov, 351-21-770-2575 (IVG 884).
Stephenson